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Wiki Assignment #1

*Define “Action Research”*

Action research is a form of educational research. An action researcher is a researcher who uses gathered information as a means to make an attempt to solve one or more problems an educator might have in an institution.

*Discuss a current educational issue/possible research topic that is of interest to you*

~Defining the Problem:

Low parent involvement is a concern in the school that I teach. The school, in particular the day care (students aged 2.9 to 5years old) suffers from low parent involvement. The school has been in operation for six years. It includes grades from nursery to eighth grade. In more recent years there has been a problem with some of the parents in the area of cooperation and involvement. Some examples include: poor turn out for orientation night, parent teachers conferences, absenteeism, tardiness, missing homework and assignments are prevalent through out the school. All of these result in low performance, discouraged teachers, annoyed parents miscommunication issues and more. One would think that since the school is a private school, funded via tuition that all of the parents would be one hundred percent supportive and cooperative but such is not the case. It seems as though the school is viewed as a nice safe place to leave children rather than an institution for learning. Intervention is necessary because the students’ grades are suffering and teachers are getting discouraged.

~Is it [the problem] researchable?

I am sure this problem is researchable but I currently do not have example sources to site as yet.

~What is your proposed intervention?

I propose to research the reasons parents are not as involved as they could be and devise a plan of action to rectify the problem. A good source for suggestions can be found http://www.ncpie.org/ the site for the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education

~ How will you define (construct) and measure your intervention? (Dependant Variable)

I intend to gather informational data such as ethnicity, average income, and educational level in as well as use a survey to poll the parents and teachers in an attempt to pin point where the problem(s) lies. After intervention I plan to monitor progress via evaluation surveys of parents and teachers as well as reviewing parent turn out for conferences and meetings.